

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE N P

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SEN. KENNEDY STEPS UP CAMPAIGN TO CUT OFF MIL AID  
TO SVN, ASKS HAK "TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT THE US WAS  
DOING...WITH ITS CONTINUED MIL AND ECON AID TO SVN,  
CAMBODIA AND LAOS." KENNEDY ALSO MAKES PUBLIC MARCH 13  
LETTER TO SECRETARY CRITICIZING CABLE FROM AMB. MARTIN  
THAT REBUTTED SHIPLER NYT ARTICLE OF FEB. 25 ON US  
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MIL AID TO SVN THAT "CONTINUES TO SET THE COURSE OF THE

WAR MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER" C-F AND WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS. NYT NOTES MARTIN CABLE CONTAINED PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH REBUTTAL OF SHIPLER ARTICLE, CLAIMED IT CONTAINED "NUMEROUS INACCURACIES AND HALF TRUTHS," SAID THAT HANOI IS TRYING TO USE "REMNANTS OF THE AMERICAN 'PEACE MOVEMENT' TO BRING INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON SELECTIVE SUSCEPTIBLE, BUT INFLUENTIAL, ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA AND, PARTICULARLY, ON SUSCEPTIBLE CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS." KENNEDY LETTER SAID OF MARTIN CABLE THAT "FOR HIM TO SUGGEST A TIE BETWEEN ALLEGED DECISIONS IN HANOI AND THE VIEW OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS ABOUT THE COURSE OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD SOUTH VIETNAM AND INDOCHINA IS THE WORST KIND OF INNUENDO AND REGRETTABLY IGNORES THE MANY

LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OVER OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDOCHINA AND OVER THE CONTINUING LEVEL OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONFRONTATIONS OF THE AREA" (REUTER, NYT).

2. ARVN SAYS COMMUNISTS FIRE 300 MORTAR AND ARTILLERY ROUNDS AT TWO RANGER POSITIONS NORTH OF KONTUM CITY (UPI NYDN, CHITRIB). GVN COMMAND REPORTS SOME OF FIERCEST FIGHTING SINCE C-F IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS BATTLE. ACTION BROKE OUT SATURDAY; INVOLVES APPARENT COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO CUT PROVINCIAL ROADS TO MONTAGNARD TOWNS NE OF KONTUM CITY; SO FAR 348 COMMUNISTS AND 68 ARVN KIA (REUTER, SUN).

3. REUTER SAIGON REPORTS THAT THIEU "QUIETLY" GAVE GO-AHEAD TO EXTENSION OF ARVN CONTROL DOWN TO VILLAGE LEVEL, INSTEAD OF PRESENT DISTRICT LEVEL. PLAN COULD EVENTUALLY SEND 9000 LIEUTENANTS AND CAPTAINS (15 PERCENT OFFICER CORPS) TO BE SECURITY CHIEFS IN ABOUT 3000 HAMLETS AND VILLAGES. NEW MOVE "WOULD FORMERLY HAVE BEEN PROTESTED AS ANOTHER EROSION OF POPULAR GOVERNMENT" BUT WITH CONTINUING COMMUNIST THREAT, POTENTIAL SOCIAL UNREST AND GRAVE ECON SITUATION, IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO "NOTHING MORE SERIOUS THAN LOCAL UNCLASSIFIED

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SQUABBLES WITH POLICE AND VILLAGE OFFICIALS." PLAN BEING PUT INTO EFFECT IN THE NORTHERN MR FIRST, WITH VILLAGES BORDERING ON COMMUNIST AREAS TO BE NEXT. OFFICERS WILL SIT ON ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES AND CONTROL PF AND PSDF IN EACH VILLAGE. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY STIFFENING OF VILLAGE DEFENSES OVERDUE BECAUSE OF STEPPEDUP ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN AND INCREASED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY BY COMMUNISTS, AND WILL

KEEP ARMY, "WHICH CANNOT BE DEMOBILIZED," BUSY. PLAN WILL ALSO BROADEN THIEU'S POWER BASE, AND IS DESIGNED TO DOVETAIL WITH "ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION" STARTED LAST YEAR TO EASE THE BURDEN ON THE "STILL-ANTIQUATED" CENTRAL GOVT. (CSM).

4. FANK COMMAND SAYS COMMUNIST-LED INSURGENTS ENTER OUDONG, TOWN OF 7000 ON ROUTE 5 18 MILES NE OF PP. GKR RUSHED IN REINFORCEMENTS BY AIR YESTERDAY AND KAF T-28S SUPPORT DEFENDERS. HEAVY FIGHTING RAGES IN MIDDLE OF TOWN IN FIRST SUCCESSFUL COMMUNIST PENETRATION OF POPULATION CENTER SINCE KOMPONG CHAM BATTLE (WP).

5. PL RADIO REPORTS THAT SIHANOUK COMPLETES VISIT TO PL ZONE IN LAOS, SAYS PRINCE AND MONIQUE ARRIVED AT SAM NEUA MARCH 12 AT INVITATION OF SOUPHANOUVONG AND DEPARTED MARCH 16 FOR HANOI. VISIT FOLLOWS THOSE BY HIGH-RANKING HANOI DELEGATION IN NOVEMBER AND VC GROUP IN JANUARY. OBSERVERS SEE VISITS AS INDICATING CONTINUED PL SUPPORT FOR OTHER COMMUNIST-LED INSURGENCIES IN SEA DESPITE IMMINENT FORMATION OF COALITION WITH RLG (AFP, NYT).

6. IN INTERVIEW WITH US NEWS, ADM. GAYLER, CINCPAC, SAYS NVN MAY BE PREPARING TO LAUNCH NEW, LARGE-SCALE OFFENSIVE IN SVN, BUT CHANCES OF NEW MAJOR OFFENSIVE ARE LESS THAN 50-50, ADDS THAT "NAVY IS READY TO RESUME FULL HOSTILITIES, INCLUDING BOMBING AND A NAVAL BLOCKADE, IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY" (UPI WASHINGTON).

JAPAN

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7. GLOBE'S CROCKER SNOW, IN TOKYO, SAYS LEARNED THERE FRIDAY THAT JAMES D. HODGSON'S NAME HAS BEEN QUIETLY SUBMITTED TO GOJ FOR OK AS US AMBASSADOR. SEES CHOICE CONSISTENT WITH "PREVAILING WASHINGTON VIEW THAT CURRENT US-JAPAN RELATIONS REVOLVE AROUND TRADE MATTERS MORE THAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS."

8. WSJ (TOKYO) REPORTS GOJ IS ALLOWING 64 PERCENT INCREASE IN AVERAGE WHOLESALE POL PRICE. CHITRIB'S KIRK, IN TOKYO, SAYS AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE RISE WILL BE 62 PERCENT, WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS GAS WILL COST APPROXIMATELY ONE DOLLAR 25 CENTS AS OF MONDAY. SAYS DESPITE SEVERITY OF INCREASE, IT ACTUALLY REPRESENTS POLITICAL COMPROMISE BETWEEN OIL REFINERS (WHO HAD DEMANDED 100 PERCENT INCREASE

TO COMPENSATE FOR IMPACT OF ME CRISIS) AND AUTO INDUSTRY SOURCES (WHO HAD OPPOSED ANY DRASTIC INCREASES AS APT TO DESTROY PRIVATE CAR OWNERSHIP BOOM).

9. NYT-S SHABAD CITES JAPANESE-SOVIET DEAL CONCLUDED MARCH 9 CALLING FOR JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE IN OPENING UP VAST COAL BASIN IN SOUTHERN PART OF YAKUT REPUBLIC TO PROVIDE MILLIONS OF TONS OF HIGH-GRADE COKING COAL FOR JAPAN'S IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY. DEAL UNDERSTOOD TO INVOLVE JAPANESE HELP IN CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROADS AND TOWNS AND SUPPLY OF MINING EQUIPMENT IN RETURN FOR COAL

DELIVERIES. SUN(MOSCOW) REPORTS THAT GROWTH OF SOVIET TRADE WITH WEST IS EXPECTED TO LEAD TO RAPID TRIPLING OF VOLUME OF FREIGHT HANDLED BY SOVIET'S EA PORTS AND SHIPPING COMPANIES. EVENTUALLY ANNUAL CAPACITY EXCEEDING 30 MILLION TONS WILL BE HANDLED BY VOSTOCHMY PORT -- KNOWN AS "THE JAPANESE PORT" BECAUSE IT IS BEING BUILT WITH JAPANESE EQUIPMENT, FINANCED BY JAPANESE CREDITS AND MEANT PRIMARILY TO HANDLE SOVIET-JAPANESE TRADE.

10. SURVEY BY CSM CORRESPONDENTS TO SEE HOW VARIOUS "DISTINGUISHED CAREER WATCHERS" ATTAINED THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENT STATUS, AND WHERE THEY SEE THEIR AREAS HEADED IN 1980S, CITES AMB. STOESSEL AND NYK BOARD CHAIRMAN YOSHIYA ARIYOSHI AMONG OTHERS. POND, IN TOKYO, PICTURES ARIYOSHI AS MODEL OF THE SUCCESSFUL JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN. ARIYOSHI SAYS WHILE JAPAN STILL BEING RUN BY LAWYERS, FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE PROFICIENT IN ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS.

KOREA

11. CHITRIB'S KIRK, IN SEOUL, REPORTS THAT "ABRASIVE SQUAWK OF BROADCAST PROPAGANDA" HAS REPLACED NORTH-SOUTH DIPLOMATIC "DIALOGUE." FINDS IT "ILL OMEN FOR LONG-RANGE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE" THAT TALKS "HAVE NOT ONLY FAILED TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING BUT HAVE BROKEN DOWN ENTIRELY" IN NEW OUTBURST OF RECRIMINATIONS AND THREATS. KIRK SAYS SK OFFICIALS PRIVATELY EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT REDUCTION IN RATE OF ROKG MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT "MODERNIZATION" AT US EXPENSE. CITES US DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SAYING, "WE GOT 13 MILLION DOLS" FOR MAP "AFTER REQUESTING 200 MILLION," AND SEOUL KNEW THERE'D HAVE TO BE STRETCH-OUT IN

MODERNIZATION PROGRAM DUE TO CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET-CUTTING. SOURCE STRONGLY DENIED, HOWEVER, THAT US WILL RENEGE ON OVERALL COMMITMENT TO SK FORCES OR WILL REDUCE US FORCES IN SK.

12. SK POLICE CRACKED DOWN ON 1,942 YOUTHS WITH LONG HAIR SATURDAY IN WHAT THEY CALLED ANTI-DECADENCE CAMPAIGN, IN SEOUL AND FIVE OTHER MAJOR CITIES. POLICE SAID 26 OF YOUTHS REFERRED TO SUMMARY COURTS FOR TRIALS, BUT REST RELEASED AFTER HAVING HAIR CUTS (UPI, NYDN).

#### BURMA

13. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES TELL SOUTHERLAND (CSM) THAT BURMA IS EXPECTED THIS YEAR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH UN AIMED AT CURBING OPIUM OUTPUT. SHIFT TOWARD GREATER COOPERATION WITH UN COINCIDES WITH TENTATIVE MOVES BY GUB LEADERS TO BREAK OUT OF MORE THAN DECADE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ISOLATION FROM REST OF WORLD.

#### CHINA

14. UPI CITES USDA MONDAY REPORT THAT LESS THAN TWO YEARS AFTER PRC AND US EMERGED FROM TWO DECADES OF HOSTILITY, US HAS BECOME PRC'S BIGGEST FOREIGN COTTON SUPPLIER. PRC HAS PLACED ORDERS FOR MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLS OF US COTTON FOR DELIVERY IN 73-74 MARKETING YEAR, PLACED FORWARD ORDERS FOR ANOTHER 376,000 BALES AND HINTED AT FURTHER SALES.

15. RTG SOURCES REPORT PRC OFFICIALS SAYING THEY HAVE BEEN SETTING UP SO MANY NEW FOREIGN MISSIONS RECENTLY THAT THEY'RE RUNNING SHORT OF DIPLOMATS (AP BANGKOK, NYT).

16. NEW US TRADE CENTER OPENS IN TAIPEI IN EFFORT TO NARROW US TRADE DEFICIT WITH GRC. SOME OBSERVERS SEE CENTER AS POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE FOR US EMBASSY IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC BREAK OFF AFTER FULLSCALE US TIES BEGIN WITH PEKING (SCM).

#### COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

#### KOREA

17. LAT (MARCH 15) SAYS PARK MAKES NO SECRET OF HIS FEELING THAT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND IDEALS

ARE AN ALIEN CONCEPT FOR SK, BUT MOUNTING ARRESTS OF PERSONS WHO DISSENT FROM THIS VIEW SHOW CLEARLY THAT AUTOCRATIC MEASURES ARE NOT BEING ACCEPTED PASSIVELY. DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IN SK NOT INSIGNIFICANT; DESPITE HARASSMENT AND PERSECUTION, IT CONTINUES TO TRY MAKE ITS VOICE HEARD. IN POWER TERMS, AGAINST SECRET POLICE AND ARMY CONTROL EXERCISED BY PARK, POLITICAL DISSENT IN SK NOW COUNTS FOR LITTLE; HOWEVER, IN MORAL TERMS IT COUNTS FOR A LOT, AND WORLD SHOULD TAKE NOTICE.

18. IN SEPARATE LETTERS TO CSM EDITOR, TUFT U'S  
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GREG HENDERSON, JAE HYUN NAM, PASTOR OF KOREAN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF GREATER WASHINGTON AREA, AND DOO SAN PAK OF LOS ANGELES TAKE EXCEPTION TO LETTER BY IN-SHIK CHUNG OF KOREAN INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. HENDERSON ARGUES THAT "CRISIS-LADEN POLITICAL CONTEXT" IN WHICH KOREAN CHRISTIANITY NOW CONFRONTS KOREAN STATE DID NOT EXIST EVEN AT HEIGHT OF RHEE DICTATORSHIP. WORST REPRESSIONS OF JAPAN'S COLONIALISM ARE AGAIN CLAMPED DOWN ON KOREA. HOPES FOR REBIRTH OF FREEDOM HAVE HAD TO TAKE ROOT, AND IT IS THESE WHICH US POLICY SHOULD MOVE TO SUPPORT. JAE HYUN NAM CONSIDERS CHUNG'S COMMENT THAT "BASIC COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES IS STILL THERE (IN KOREA) AN "UNFORGIVABLE INSULT TO THE FREE PRESS AND TO THE KOREAN PEOPLE WHO ARE POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED, ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-DICTATORIAL AND MORE THAN 90 PERCENT LITERATE." DOO SAN PAK RECALLS JAPANESE COLONIALISTS ALSO LABELLED CHURCH LEADERS, INTELLECTUALS AND STUDENTS, WHO PLAYED ROLE OF NATIONAL CONSCIENCE, AS "FRINGE GROUPS" AND SELF-SERVING ELEMENTS. "THEY STOOD UP AGAINST TYRANNY, INJUSTICE, AND LIES WHEN MANY OTHERS CHOSE THE MORE COMFORTABLE ROAD OF PAYING LIP-SERVICE TO THE ENEMY OR ACTIVELY COLLABORATING WITH THE OPPRESSORS." IMPLIES THAT MEASURES TAKEN BY ROKG SINCE NOV. 1972 WERE FOR SURVIVAL OF PARK REGIME RATHER THAN FOR KOREAN NATION.

BURMA/PRC/LAOS/THAILAND

19. DIPLOMATS IN BANGKOK TELL CSM'S SOUTHERLAND THAT CHINA HAS MOVED SEVERAL THOUSAND TROOPS INTO NE BURMA OVER PAST YEAR, APPARENTLY TO SUPPORT BCP "WHITE FLAG" INSURGENTS. SOME ESTIMATES RUN AS HIGH AS 9,000 MOST OF WHOM STATIONED WITHIN 50 MILES OF PRC BORDER IN AREAS WHICH BURMESE GOVT.NEVER CONTROLLED

AND DO NOT POSE DIRECT THREAT TO GOVT. THEIR PRESENCE HAS NOT CAUSED GREAT ALARM IN THAILAND. PRC SUPPORT FOR INSURGENTS MADE EASIER BY FACT SOME TRIBAL MILITIAMEN ON CHINESE SIDE OF BORDER ARE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM TRIBAL PEOPLE OF N BURMA. MILITIAMEN HAVE BEEN AMONG UNCLASSIFIED

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THOSE DISPATCHED BY CHINESE TO REINFORCE INSURGENT RANKS IN BURMA. SOURCES REPORTS PRC HAS IN RECENT MONTHS WITHDRAWN "SIGNIFICANT NUMBER" OF TROOPS AND AA GUNS FROM ROAD THEY BUILT IN NW LAOS. IN PAST, THAI OFFICIALS CONTENTED THAT ROAD WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THAILAND, BUT US AND LAO OFFICIALS TENDED TO DISCOUNT THIS INTERPRETATION, ARGUING THAT ROAD WAS PART OF CHINESE ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN DEFENSIVE PRESENCE IN

VULNERABLE BORDER AREA. SOUTHERLAND RECALLS CHINESE HAVE SINCE MID-1960S PROVIDED WHITE FLAG INSURGENTS WITH WEAPONS, OFFICERS AND NONCOMS; BORDER SKIRMISHES WITH CHINESE TROOPS REPORTED BY BURMESE AS FAR BACK AS 1967. JOURNALISTS TAKEN ON CONDUCTED TOUR OF NORTHERN SHAN STATE THREE MONTHS AGO WERE SHOWN GRAVES MARKED WITH CHINESE WRITING, INDICATING CHINESE INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT FIGHTING. THIS OCCASIONED NO SURPRISE, BUT DIPLOMATS SAY MOVEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF CHINESE TROOPS ACROSS BORDER IS NEW.

GENERAL

20. CSM CONTENTS THAT PRES' COMMENT TO CHICAGO BUSINESS EXECS ON US INDISPENSABILITY TO EUROPEAN SECURITY IS AN INCOMPLETE PROPOSITION. MAINTAINS THAT COMPLETE AND TRUE PROPOSITION - UPON WHICH A GENERATION OF UNUSUAL BALANCE-OF-POWER STABILITY HAS ALREADY BEEN BASED AND UPON WHICH FOREIGN POLICIES OF INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES HAVE BEEN FOUNDED - IS THAT US IS INDISPENSABLE TO EUROPEAN SECURITY AND EUROPE IS INDISPENSABLE TO US SECURITY. INCOMPLETE PROPOSITION LEADS TO FALLACY THAT US COULD SAFELY CUT EUROPE ADRIFT; BUT REMOVE THE US NUCLEAR UMBRELLA AND EUROPE LIVES UNDER SOVIET NUCLEAR UMBRELLA. EXISTING WORLD ORDER HAS ITS FLAWS, BUT THERE HAS BEEN GENERATION OF NO MAJOR WAR OR WORLD WAR. IT IS FOUNDED ON CLOSE AND MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP OF US, CANADA, WE AND JAPAN. IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF THEIR SECURITY AND MUST NOT BE PUT IN PERIL.

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21. FRED BRANFMAN OF INDOCHINA RESOURCE CENTER WRITES TO WP EDITOR DISPUTING AMB. PHUONG'S FEB. 26 LETTER SUGGESTING THAT GVN IS ANXIOUS TO OBSERVE PARIS AGREEMENT. SAYS OVERWHELMING CONSENSUS IN DIPLOMATIC AND JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES - AS HE FOUND DURING VISIT TO SVN LAST JUNE AND JULY - IS THAT THIEU GOVT. WAS OPPOSED TO SIGNING AGREEMENT AND HAS RESISTED ITS IMPLEMENTATION EVER SINCE. INDICATES THAT GVN FAILED TO OBSERVE AGREEMENT BY REFUSING TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO RETURN TO VILLAGES OF THEIR CHOICE, DENIED EXISTENCE OF THIRD FORCE, REFUSED TO ALLOW THIRD FORCE TO ORGANIZE OPENLY; HELD VILLAGE AND SENATORIAL ELECTIONS, AND PUSHED AMENDMENT THROUGH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO ALLOW THIEU TO RUN FOR THIRD TERM. MOST IMPORTANT, GVN NOT ONLY

REFUSED TO RELEASE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, BUT CONTINUED TO TORTURE AND ARREST NEW ONES. IT REFUSED TO ALLOW INTERNATIONAL BODY, INCLUDING IRC, TO INSPECT CIVILIAN DETAINEES. BRANFMAN NOTES PHUONG LETTER SAYS "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN ONLY PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. WE STRIVE FOR ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION, TO ITS FINAL STEP WHICH IS GENERAL ELECTIONS..." ACCORDING BRANFMAN, PHUONG SAYS OTHER SIDE MUST AGREE TO DATE FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS BEFORE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS CAN BE ALLOWED. BRANFMAN CONTENDS THAT THIS VIOLATES ART II OF AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR FULL DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS "IMMEDIATELY" AFTER ITS SIGNATURE, THAT BY TAKING THIS POSITION, THIEU GOVT IS IN EFFECT ASKING OTHER SIDE TO SURRENDER - BY AGREEING TO ELECTION BEFORE IT KNOWS WHETHER THIEU GOVT WILL STOP ITS POLICY OF TORTURING AND JAILING NEUTRALISTS AND COMMUNISTS ALIKE, REFUSING TO ALLOW OPPONENT THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH FREELY OR EVEN HOLD MEETINGS.

THAILAND

22. WP'S GREENWAY IN BANGKOK REPORTS THAT SINCE OCT. REVOLT, MOOD AMONG STUDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS HAS CHANGED FROM EUPHORIA TO FRUSTRATION AND DEPRESSION.  
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MANY FEEL THAT, ALTHOUGH KINGDOM IS MOVING TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL RULE AND PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, HOPED-FOR GOVT. REFORMS HAVE BEEN SLOW AND ONLY SKIN-



DEEP. NAPPORN SUWANBHANICH, CHULALONGKORN LECTURER, ONE OF 13 WHOSE ARRESTS FOR PASSING OUT ALLEGEDLY SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE SPARKED OCT. DEMONSTRATIONS, SAYS "WHOLE HOUSE NEEDS RECONSTRUCTION BUT ALL WE DID WAS CHANGE A FEW ROOF TILES." GREENWAY OBSERVES THAT OCT. EVENTS DID NOT RESULT IN REVOLUTION; THAILAND REMAINS VERY CONSERVATIVE AND THOSE WHO ADVOCATE MILD FORM OF SOCIALISM FIND THEMSELVES BRANDED COMMUNISTS AND DANGEROUS LEFTWINGERS. OLD WAYS CONTINUE DESPITE HALTING STEPS TOWARD PARLIAMENTARY RULE. GREENWAY REPORTS THAT INCIDENT WHICH LOCAL PRESS CALLS "THAILAND'S MY LAI," HAS CAUSED RTG GREAT EMBARRASSMENT. ON JAN. 24, BAN NA SAI VILLAGE IN NE THAILAND, NEAR LAO BORDER, WAS PARTIALLY DESTROYED AND FOUR PERSONS SHOT DEAD. RTG SAYS VILLAGE WAS BURNED AS RESULT OF FIGHTING BETWEEN CTS AND SECURITY FORCES. VILLAGERS INSISTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CTS IN VILLAGE WHEN GOVT. TROOPS CAME; TROOPS SIMPLY SHOT UP VILLAGE AND BURNED IT DOWN. RTG

ORDERED INVESTIGATION, AND INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT WAS HANDED TO CABINET EARLIER THIS WEEK. RTG EXPECTED TO MAKE REPORT PUBLIC FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING MAR. 19. BECAUSE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF GOVT. OFFICIALS, CRITIC SAYS, "IT IS NOT UNLIKE PUTTING THE WHITE HOUSE IN CHARGE OF WATERGATE INVESTIGATIONS." HOWEVER, CRITICS ADMIT THAT AT LEAST SANYA'S GOVT. HAS MADE EFFORT TO RESPOND TO ABUSES, KNOWING THAT UNDER OLD GOVT. INCIDENTS LIKE BURNING OF BAN NA SAI WERE HUSHED UP AND NEVER MENTIONED. KISSINGER

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